DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 388 559 SO 025 378

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TITLE President Hoover: A Student Guide.
INSTITUTION Herbert Hoover Presidential Library-Museum, West Branch, IA.
PUB DATE 94
NOTE 13p.; For related documents, see SO 025 379-381 and SO 025 383-384.
AVAILABLE FROM Herbert Hoover Presidential Library, P.O. Box 488, West Branch, IA 52358.
PUB TYPE Guides - Classroom Use - Teaching Guides (For Teacher) (052)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS *American Studies; Federal Government; *Modern History; *Presidents of the United States; Secondary Education; *Social History; Social Studies; State History; *United States History
IDENTIFIERS *Hoover (Herbert)

ABSTRACT

This information packet is intended for student use in research about the life of President Herbert Hoover. The packet is divided into three sections. Part 1 is "The Herbert Hoover Chronology," which sequences Hoover's accomplishments along with world events from his birth in 1874, until his death in 1964. Part 2 is "A Boyhood in Iowa," which is an excerpt taken from an informal address of boyhood recollections before the Iowa Society of Washington by Herbert Hoover in 1927 when he was 53 years old. Part 3 is "Presidential Cartoons," and shows artists' ways of portraying Hoover's accomplishments through illustrations. Lists of additional readings for students and teachers are included. (EH)

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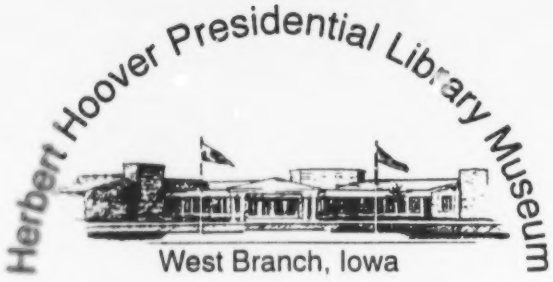

Herbert Hoover Chronology

	Hoover		Other Events
1874	Hoover was born on August 10 in West Branch, Iowa.	1874	Large-scale manufacture of barbed wire began.
1880	Hoover's father, Jesse, a blacksmith and farm implement store owner died.	1876	Alexander Graham Bell patented the telephone.
1884	Hoover's mother, Hulda Minthorn Hoover, died.	1883	Three transcontinental railroads completed. The first was finished in 1869.
1885	Hoover traveled by train to Oregon to live with his Uncle, Henry John Minthorn.		
1885	Hoover lived in Oregon. Attended Friends Pacific Academy in Newburg. Worked as office boy in Uncle's real estate office in Salem. Attended night school and learned bookkeeping, typing and math. Did not attend high school.	1886	Statue of Liberty dedicated.
1891	Hoover entered Stanford University. Graduated in 1895 with a degree in geology.	1889	Eiffel Tower was built in Paris.
1895	Worked in California gold mine, 10 hours a day, 20 cents per hour. Then took a job as typist in engineering office of Louis Janin, when no engineering positions were open.	1895	Dr. John Kellogg designed breakfast flakes.
		1896	Wireless telegraph invented.

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Hoover		Other Events	
1897	On Janin's recommendation, Hoover was hired by British mining firm of Bewick, Moreing & Co., and sent to gold fields of Australia.		
		1898	Horace Short invented the paper clip.
1899	Married Lou Henry, fellow geology student at Stanford.		
1899	Went to China for Bewick, Moreing and Co. to act as consultant to Chinese government in developing mines. In China during the Boxer Rebellion.	**1900**	Chinese Boxer Rebellion.
1901	Hoover became a partner in Bewick, Moreing and began travelling all over the world.	**1901**	Nobel prizes were awarded for the first time.
1903	Herbert Hoover, Jr., born in London.	**1903**	Wilbur and Orville Wright got their airplane Flyer I, off the ground at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina.
1907	Allan Hoover, born in London.	**1907**	First radio broadcast.
		1908	Henry Ford introduced his Model T automobile, nicknamed the "Tin Lizzie." The car cost $850.
1909	Hoover retired from Bewick, Moreing and began a firm of consulting engineers. He becomes known as a "Dr. of Sick Mines."		
1912	Herbert and Lou Henry Hoover completed the translation into English of *De Re Metallica*, a 16th Century Latin text on mining, for which they received a gold medal from the Mining & Metallurgical Society of America in 1914.	**1912**	A new candy called the "Life Saver" hit the market. A roll cost a nickel.
1914	Hoover helped Americans stranded in Europe, because of W.W. I, return home. Became Chairman of the Commission for Relief in Belgium.	**1914**	World War I began in Europe.

Hoover		Other Events	
1917	Hoover asked by President Wilson to be United States Food Administrator for U.S. during war.	1917	Jeanette Rankinx, a Republican from Montana, was the first woman elected to Congress.
1919	Hoover directed the American Relief Administration which fed 350 million people in 21 countries in the aftermath of the war.	1920	19th Amendment to the Constitution ratified. Gave women the right to vote.
1921	Served as Secretary of Commerce in the Cabinets of Presidents Harding and Coolidge.	1922	The most popular sandwich for people under 12 was peanut butter and jelly.
1923	Established American Child Health Association.		
1924	Chairman, Street and Highway Safety Commission.	1925	A new dance craze swept the nation called the Charleston.
		1926	Radio comes into popular use in the United States.
1927	Spoke and was pictured on first transmission of television signals from New York to Washington.	1927	Charles Lindbergh flew nonstop across the Atlantic Ocean in his plane called "The Spirit of St. Louis."
1928	Hoover elected President of the United States. Made good will tour of Latin America after the election.		
1929	Served as 31st President of the United States.	1929	Stock market crashed.
		1930	Construction began on Hoover Dam on the Colorado River.
1932	Defeated for re-election by Franklin D. Roosevelt.	1931	President Hoover signed an act that made "The Star Spangled Banner" our national anthem.
		1935	Drought created "dust-bowl" in midwest and southwest.
1936	Hoover served as chairman of Boys' Club of America and helped establish 500 new Boys' Clubs.		

Hoover		Other Events	
1939	Hoover worked as chairman of committees to raise funds for Polish, Finnish, and Belgian relief.	**1939**	World War II began with the Russian-German invasion of Poland.
		1940	Bugs Bunny made his first appearance.
		1941	U.S. attacked at Pearl Harbor; entered W.W. II.
1944	Lou Henry Hoover died.		
1946	At President Truman's request Hoover conducted post-war World Famine surveys.		
1947	Hoover was chairman of the Commission on Organization of the Executive Branch of the Government (known as 1st Hoover Commission) for President Truman.	**1947**	Television began coming into wide use in the U.S.
1953	Headed Second Hoover Commission to study executive branch for President Eisenhower.		
		1955	Successful vaccine against polio developed.
		1957	Russia launched the first earth orbiting satellite, Sputnik I.
1958	Hoover served as the United States representative to the World's Fair in Brussels, Belgium — his last official act.		
1962	Hoover Presidential Library and Museum dedicated in West Branch — one of Hoover's last public appearances.	**1962**	U.S. astronaut John Glenn rocketed into orbit.
1964	Herbert Hoover died in New York City at the age of 90. Buried in West Branch, Iowa.		

A BOYHOOD IN IOWA

Exerpts from an informal address before the Iowa Society of Washington by Herbert Hoover in 1927.

I prefer to think of Iowa as I saw it through the eyes of a ten-year-old boy--and the eyes of all ten-year-old boys are or should be of growing crops. His days should be filled with adventure and great undertakings, with participation in good and comforting things. I was taken farther West from Iowa when I was ten, to Oregon and thence to that final haven of Iowans--California . . .

. . . Some one may say that these recollections of Iowa are only the illusions of forty years after, but I know better--for I have been back and checked them up. I was told that when I went back everything would have shrunk up and become ordinary. For instance, there was Cook's Hill -- that great long hill where, on winter nights, we slid down at terrific speeds, with our tummies tight to homemade sleds. I've seen it several times since; it's a good hill. . .

. . . The swimming-hole under the willows down by the railroad bridge is still operating efficiently, albeit modern mothers probably compel their youngsters to take a bath to get rid of clean and healthy mud when they come home. The hole still needs to be deepened, however. It is hard to keep from pounding the mud with your hands and feet when you shove off for the thirty feet of a cross-channel swim. And there were the woods down the Burlington track.

. . . I know there are rabbits still being trapped in cracker boxes held open by a figure four at the behest of small boys at this very time. . . . One of the bitterest days of my life was in connection with a rabbit. Rabbits fresh from a figure-four trap early on a cold morning are wiggly rabbits, and in the lore of boys of my time it is better to bring them home alive. My brother, being older, had . . . read in the "Youth's Companion" full directions for rendering live rabbits secure . . .

. . . Soon after he had acquired this higher learning on rabbits, he proceeded to instruct me to stand still in the cold snow and to hold up the rabbit by its hind feet while with his not over-sharp knife he proposed to puncture two holes between the sinews and back knee joints of the rabbit, through which holes he proposed to tie a string and thus arrive at complete security. Upon the introduction of the operation the resistance of this rabbit was too much for me. I was not only blamed for its escape all the way home and for weeks afterwards, but continuously over the last forty years. . . . I never see rabbit tracks across the snowy fields that I do not have a painful recollection of it all.

There were also at time pigeons in this great forest, and prairie chickens in the hedges. With the efficient instruction of a real live American Indian boy from a neighboring Indian School on the subject of bows and arrows, we sometimes by firing volleys in battalions were able to bring down a pigeon or a chicken . . . .

. . . And in those days there were sun- and catfish to be had . . . We were still in that rude but highly social condition of using a willow pole with a butcher string line and hooks ten for a dime. Our compelling lure was a segment of an angle worm, and our incantation was to spit on the bait. We lived in the time when fish used to bite instead of strike, and we knew it bit when the cork bobbed. And moreover, we ate the fish.

I mentioned the Burlington track. It was a wonderful place; the track was ballasted with glacial gravels where, on industrious search, you discovered gems of agate and fossil coral which could with infinite backaches be polished on the grindstone. Their fine points came out wonderfully when wet, and you had to lick them with your tongue before each exhibit. . . .

Iowa through the eyes of a ten-year-old boy is not all adventure or high living. Iowa in those years, as in these years, was filled with days of school. . .

Presidential Cartoons

Drawing a cartoon of the president is the cartoonist's way of telling the newspaper readers something about the job of being president. The cartoon at its best is used to simplify and get to the heart of the matter.

There have been several famous political cartoonists who got across their message through illustration and humor. One of these is "Ding" Darling. His work appeared daily on the front page of the *Des Moines Register* for nearly three decades. He received the Pulitzer Prize twice for editorial cartooning and created the cartoons on the following pages.

Study the cartoons. Can you read the message in each one? Match the cartoons with the message on this page by writing the letter above each cartoon next to the right message.

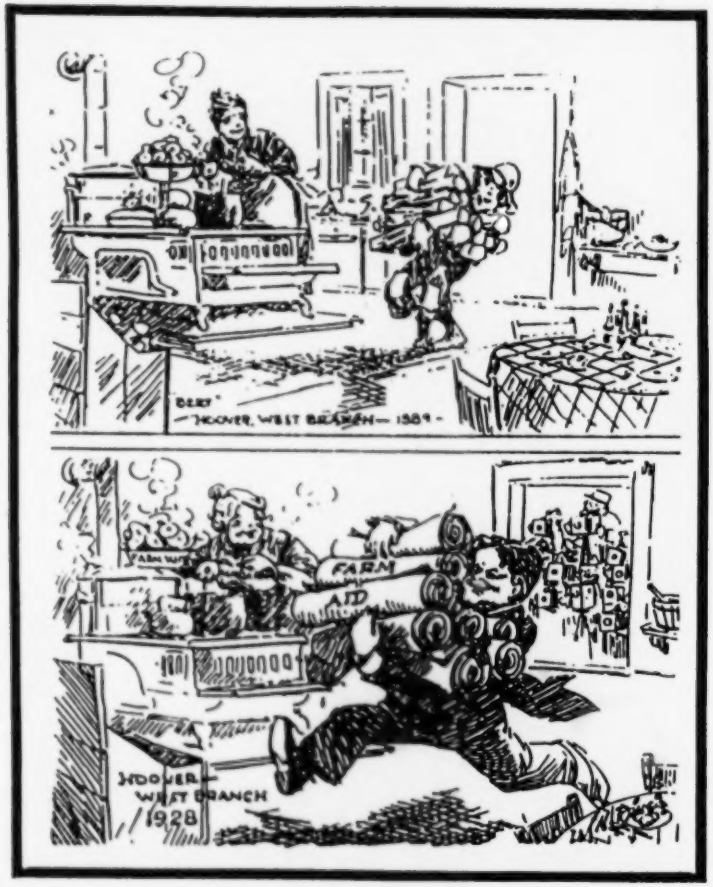
____ Americans were proud of themselves for electing such a hard working president.

____ Children who work hard helping others will continue to help others when they are grown.

____ Being president is a big job — there are many demands to meet.

____ It is possible for anyone to grow up to be president in America.

A



As the twig is bent-the tree is inclined.

B

While such things are possible
there is nothing very wrong with our country.

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C

That's all right, Mr. President.
We can just shake hands with ourselves.

11

D

CONTRACT
TO LIVE UP TO THE EXTRAVAGANT CLAIMS OF ARDENT ADMIRERS
A JOB FOR EVERYMAN
FARM RELIEF
INLAND WATER WAYS
PROSPERITY
MANAGE PROHIBITION TO SUIT THE DRYS AND WETS
APPOINT A CABINET THAT WILL PLEASE EVERYBODY
MAKE CONGRESS BEHAVE
CREATE A UTOPIA
SATISFY EVERYBODY—AND BE THE BEST PRESIDENT WE EVER HAD!
SIGNED
HOOVER

An awful big contract.

12

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Additional Reading for Students:

Bruner, David. Herbert Hoover: A Public Life. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1978. 341 pp, suitable for junior high to adult.

Clinton, Susan. Encyclopedia of Presidents--Herbert Hoover. Chicago: Children's Press, 1988. 98 pp, suitable for elementary students.

Emery, Ann. American Friend: Herbert Hoover. New York: Rand McNally & Company, Inc., 1967. 232 pp, upper elementary.

Hilton, Suzanne. The World of Young Herbert Hoover. New York: Walker & Company, 1988. 94 pp, for younger children or reading aloud.

Hoover, Herbert. On Growing Up: Letters to American Boys and Girls. William Morrow & Company, 1962. 160 pp, Mr. Hoover's letters from and to American children.

McGee, Dorothy Horton. Herbert Hoover: Engineer, Humanitarian, Statesman. Dodd, Mead & Company, 1965. 317 pp, 5th grade to adult.

Peare, Catherine Owens. The Herbert Hoover Story. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell, 1965. 247 pp, 5th grade to adult.

Additional Reading for Teachers:

Fausold, Martin. The Presidency of Herbert Hoover. University of Kansas Press, 1984. 288 pp, scholarly assessment of the Hoover administration.

Nash, George H. The Life of Herbert Hoover (The Engineer, 1874-1914). W. W. Norton & Company, 1983. 579 pp, first volume of a definitive biography; covers early years of Hoover's life before he entered public service--suitable for high school to adult.

Nash, George H. The Life of Herbert Hoover (The Humanitarian, 1914-1917). W. W. Norton & Company, 1988. 382 pp, second volume in series; covers the remarkable famine relief efforts of Hoover--suitable for high school to adult.

Robinson, Edgar Eugene, & Bornet, Vaughn D. Herbert Hoover: President of the United States. Hoover Institution Press, 1975. 299 pp, suitable for high school to adult.

Smith, Richard Norton. An Uncommon Man: The Triumph of Herbert Hoover. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1984. 431 pp, very readable account of Hoover's life, suitable for high school to adult.